

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for routing video calls to a user of multiple communication devices, the method comprising:

receiving a video communication request at a broadcast center configured to distribute programming content from content providers, the video communication request addressed to a recipient;

identifying the recipient from information contained within the request;

determining a set of communication devices associated with the recipient;

selecting from the set of communication devices a first communication device with a highest probability of being presently accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received; and

forwarding the video communication request from the broadcast center to the first selected communication device.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

in response to the recipient not accepting the request within an established time interval:

selecting a second communication device with a next highest probability of being presently accessible to the recipient after the first selected communication device; and

forwarding the video communication request to the second selected communication device.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
selecting from the set of communication devices a communication device
to which the recipient is currently logged in such that the recipient is authenticated as a
user of the communication device.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
selecting from the set of communication devices a communication device
last accessed by the recipient.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
obtaining schedule data identifying probable physical locations of the
recipient at various times;
determining from the schedule a probable physical location of the recipient
at the time the request is received; and
selecting from the set of communication devices a communication device
in closest proximity to the probable physical location of the recipient.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
storing usage pattern data identifying communication devices used by the
recipient at various times; and
determining from the usage pattern data a communication device
accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
storing user preference data identifying communication devices to be used
by the recipient at various times; and
determining from the user preference data a communication device to be
used by the recipient at the time the request is received.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
determining, based on a locator device carried by the recipient, an actual
physical location of the recipient at the time the request is received; and
selecting from the set of communication devices a communication device
in closest proximity to the actual physical location of the recipient.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
polling each communication device within the set for an indication of the
recipient's presence.
10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
receiving an indication of the recipient's presence from a communication
device within the set.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
receiving an indication of the recipient's presence sent from a
communication device within the set in response to a user command.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving configuration information from a user pertaining to a new communication device associated with the user; and
adding the configuration information to information pertaining to a set of communication devices associated with the user.

13. (original) The method of 12, wherein configuration information comprises at least one of a name for the communication device, a type of the communication device, and a network address for the device.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
in response to the user accepting the video communication request:
establishing communication with the first selected communication device.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the video communication request originates from a caller device capable of audio and video communication and wherein establishing comprises:
detecting that the first selected communication device supports audio-only communication; and
establishing an audio-only connection with the first selected communication device.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each communication device in the set has an associated network address, and wherein forwarding comprises:

addressing the video communication request to the network address for the first selected communication device; and

transmitting the video communication request to the first selected communication device.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the network address comprises one of a uniform resource locator (URL), an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and a telephone number.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~[[18]]~~, wherein the ~~communication node~~ broadcast center is selected from the group consisting of ~~a set-top box (STB)~~, a cable head-end, an Internet server, and a satellite broadcast center.

20. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the video communication request comprises an address that uniquely identifies the recipient associated with the set of communication devices.

21. (currently amended) A system for routing video calls to a user of multiple communication devices, the system comprising:

a broadcast center configured to distribute programming content from content providers, the broadcast center comprising:

a reception component that receives a video communication request addressed to a recipient;

an identification component that identifies the recipient from information contained within the request;

a determination component that determines a set of communication devices associated with the recipient;

a selection component that selects from the set of communication devices a first communication device with a highest probability of being accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received; and

a forwarding component that forwards the video communication request from the broadcast center to the first selected communication device.

22. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured, in response to the recipient not accepting the request within an established time interval, to select a second communication device with a next highest probability of being presently accessible to the recipient after the first selected communication device; and wherein the forwarding component is further configured to

forward the video communication request to the second selected communication device.

23. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to select from the set of communication devices a communication device to which the recipient is currently logged in.

24. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to select from the set of communication devices a communication device last accessed by the recipient.

25. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to obtain schedule data identifying probable physical locations of the recipient at various times, determine from the schedule a probable physical location of the recipient at the time the request is received, and select from the set of communication devices a communication device in closest proximity to the probable physical location of the recipient.

26. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to store usage pattern data identifying communication devices used by the recipient at various times and to determine from the usage pattern data a communication device accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received.

27. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to store user preference data identifying communication devices to be

used by the recipient at various times and to determine from the user preference data a communication device to be used by the recipient at the time the request is received.

28. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to determine, based on a locator device carried by the recipient, an actual physical location of the recipient at the time the request is received and to select from the set of communication devices a communication device in closest proximity to the actual physical location of the recipient.

29. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to poll each communication device within the set for an indication of the recipient's presence.

30. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to receive an indication of the recipient's presence from a communication device within the set.

31. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to receive an indication of the recipient's presence sent from a communication device within the set in response to a user command.

32. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to receive configuration information from a user pertaining to a new communication device associated with the user and add the configuration information to information pertaining to a set of communication devices associated with the user.

33. (original) The system of 32, wherein configuration information comprises at least one of a name for the communication device, a type of the communication device, and a network address for the device.

34. (original) The system of claim 21, further comprising:
a communication component that establishes communication with the first selected communication device in response to the video communication request being accepted.

35. (original) The system of claim 34, wherein the video communication request originates from a caller device capable of audio and video communication, and wherein the communication component is further configured to detect that the first selected communication device supports audio-only communication and to establish an audio-only connection with the first selected communication device.

36. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein each communication device in the set has an associated network address, and wherein the forwarding component is further configured to address the video communication request to the network address for the first selected communication device and to transmit the video communication request to the first selected communication device.

37. (original) The system of claim 36, wherein the network address comprises one of a uniform resource locator (URL), an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and a telephone number.

38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) The system of claim 21 ~~[[38]]~~, wherein the ~~communication node~~ broadcast center is selected from the group consisting of ~~a set top box (STB)~~, a cable head-end, an Internet server, and a satellite broadcast center.

40. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the video communication request comprises an address that uniquely identifies the recipient associated with the set of communication devices.

41. (currently amended) A system for routing video calls to a user of multiple communication devices, the system comprising:

means for receiving a video communication request at a broadcast center configured to distribute programming content from content providers, the video communication request addressed to a recipient;

means for identifying the recipient from information contained within the request;

means for determining a set of communication devices associated with the recipient;

means for selecting from the set of communication devices a first communication device with a highest probability of being presently accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received; and

means for forwarding the video communication request from the broadcast center to the first selected communication device.

42. (new) A method for routing video calls to a user of multiple communication devices, the method comprising:

receiving a video communication request addressed to a recipient, the recipient being associated with the set of communication devices;

selecting from the set of communication devices a first communication device to which the recipient is currently logged in such that the recipient is authenticated as a user of the first communication device; and

forwarding the video communication request to the first communication device.

43. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein selecting further comprises:

receiving notification from the first communication device that the recipient is logged in to the first communication device;

receiving notification from a second communication device of the set of communication devices that the recipient is logged in to the second communication device; and

determining that the recipient logged into the first communication device more recently than the second communication device such that there is a higher probability of the first communication device being presently accessible to the recipient.

44. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein the video communication request is received by a communication node selected from the group comprising a set top box (STB), a cable head-end, an Internet server, and a satellite broadcast center.

45. (new) A method for routing video calls to a user of multiple communication devices, the method comprising:

receiving a video communication request addressed to a recipient, the recipient being associated with the set of communication devices;

selecting from the set of communication devices a first communication device last accessed by the recipient; and

forwarding the video communication request to the first communication device.

46. (new) A method for routing video calls to a user of multiple communication devices, the method comprising:

associating a user with a set of communication devices;

storing usage pattern data identifying a set of times during which each communication device in the set of communication devices is used;

receiving a video communication request at a first time, the video communication request addressed to the user;

comparing the first time with the set of times to determine a first communication device of the set of communication devices with a highest probability of being presently accessible to the user; and

forwarding the video communication request to the first communication device.